Import of coal from Australia

*44. SHRI M. VINCENT: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of coal proposed to be imported from Australia to tide over the coal shortage in the country; and

(b) the quantum of coal likely to be released to Tamil Nadu as against its re-quirement to augment the Thermal Stations and their power production?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI KALYAN SINGH KALV1): (a) and (b) At present Steel Plants are being allowed to import low ash coking coal to meet part of their requirements. The linkage of coal sanctioned to Tamil Nadu Electricity Board Thermal Power Stations for quar- • ters October—December, 1990 and January, —March, 1991 is as follows:

(In Lakh Tonnes per month)

	January=March 1991	Oct. - December 1990
Ennore	1. 90	1. 90
		2. 60
Mettur.	2. 90	2. 50

ONGC contract in Vietnam

*45. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item which was published in the Times of India dated the 10th October, 1990 regarding production sharing contract the ONGC Videsh Limited have entered into with Vietnam; and

(b) if so, what are the terms and conditions of the contract?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA), (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Statement

A Production Sharing Contract (PSC) for exploration and exploitation of petroleum was signed between ONGC Videsh Ltd. (earlier known as Hydrocarbons India Ltd.) and Petrovietnam, the national oil company of Vietanam on May 19, 1988.

2. According to the agreement the entire exploration risk will be borne by ONGC Videsh Ltd. If commercial quantities of petroluem are not discovered, ONGC Vi- [1] desh Ltd. will have the right to terminate the contract. The exploration is to be carried out in an offshore area covering approximately 14. 200 sq. kms.

3. If commercial quantities of oil are discovered, it would be shared between ONGC Videsh Ltd. and Petrovietnam according to a siding scale based on volumes, of production. ONGC Videsh Ltd. would also be entitled to recover its costs. The 1 entire production and development of the discovery would be carried out by ONGC Videsh Ltd. The duration of the contract
is 25 years.